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PARTICIPATION OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE LEAST DEVELOPED COUNTRIES IN THE PREPARATORY MEETINGS AND AT THE CONFERENCE ITSELF

Status of the voluntary fund

Report of the Secretary-General

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 46/116 of 17 December 1991, reiterated its invitation for contributions of extrabudgetary resources to meet the costs of travel of representatives of the least developed countries to the World Conference on Human Rights and to its preparatory meetings, including regional meetings. It also requested the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts in this regard.

2. A note verbale, with an accompanying information note, was sent to all States on 10 January 1992, soliciting contributions to the voluntary fund established for this purpose and advising them of the amount required to cover the costs of travel of representatives of the least developed countries in the various meetings of the preparatory process and the World Conference itself. A report on the status of the fund was made to the Commission on Human Rights (E/CN.4/1992/57/Add.1).

3. At the time of preparation of the present report, contributions had been received from the Governments of China, Finland, Ireland, Morocco, the Netherlands and Norway. The total amount so far contributed is US$ 233,605. The Secretary-General has also been informed that the Government of France has decided to contribute FF 100,000 to the fund and that the Government of Sweden has agreed to contribute Skr 300,000. The Government of Australia has also advised the Secretariat that it will contribute $A 15,000 to the fund. The Australian and Chinese contributions are to be used to meet the cost of participation of representatives of least developed countries in the Bangkok regional meeting.

4. A communication was sent to the Governments of all least developed countries on 21 February 1992 advising them of the availability of financial assistance for their representatives to attend the second session of the Preparatory Committee and requesting them to advise the Centre for Human Rights if they wished financial assistance under the terms of the fund. As of the date of this report, a total of 21 requests for assistance had been received by the Secretariat.

5. As in his report to the Commission on Human Rights, the Secretary-General reiterates his appeal to States which may be in a position to do so to contribute to the fund. It will be recalled that the target figure which needs to be attained in order to meet the financial requirements of participation by the least developed countries in the World Conference on Human Rights and its preparatory process is approximately US$ 690,000.